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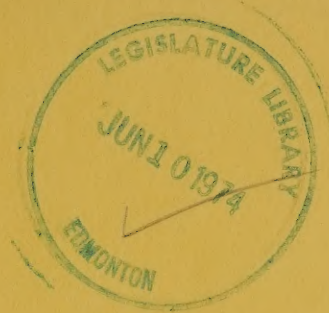
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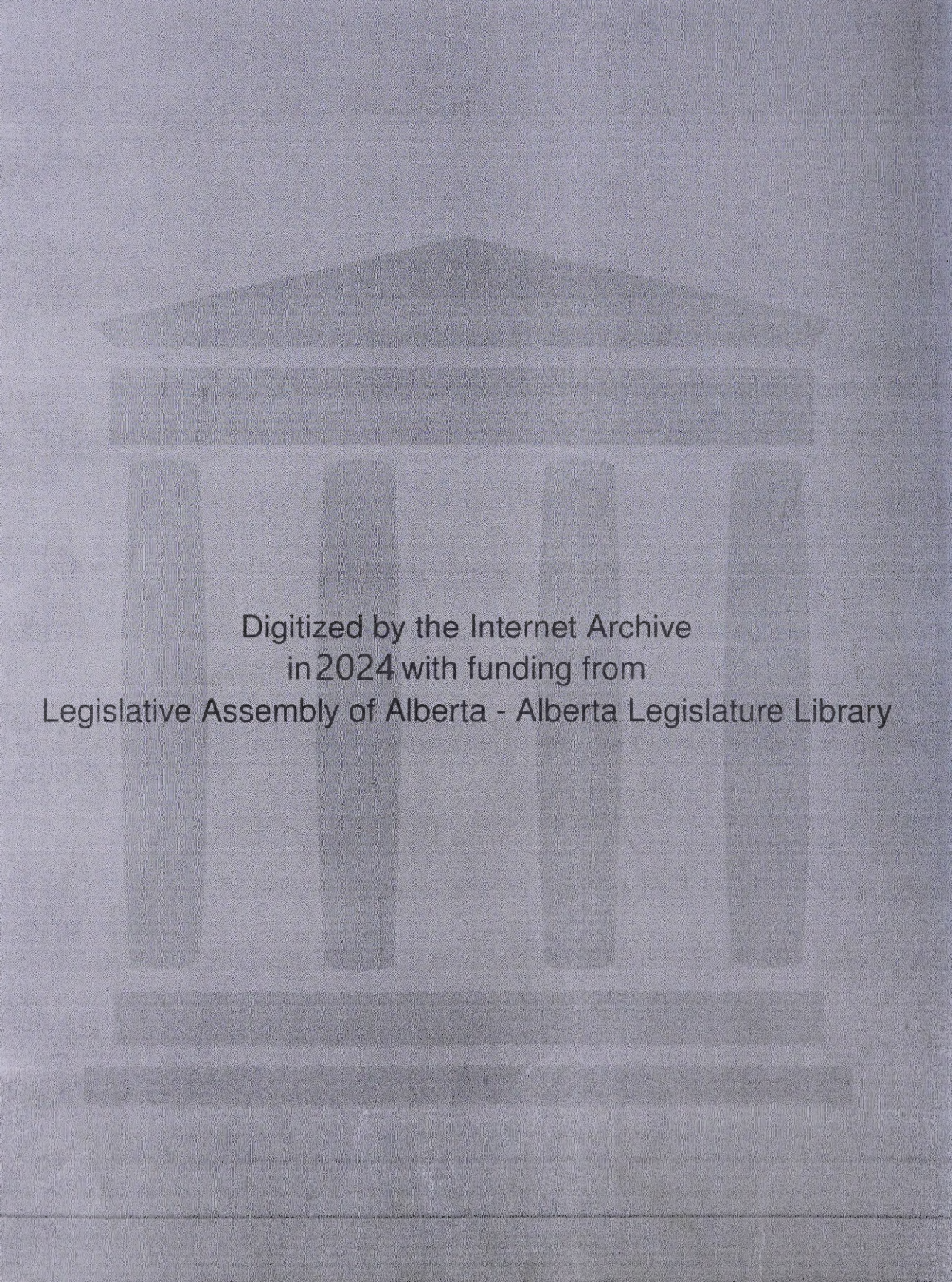


# ANNUAL REPORT

1971

ALBERTA POLICE COMMISSION





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ALBERTA POLICE COMMISSION

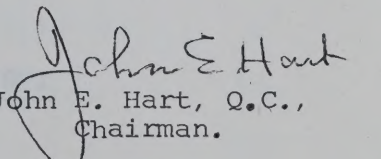
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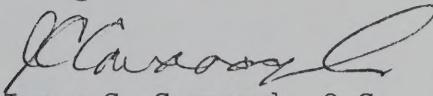
January 14, 1972.

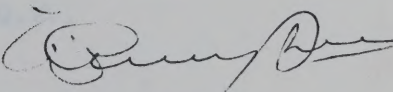
The Honourable Merv Leitch, Q.C.,  
Attorney General, Province of Alberta,  
404 Legislative Building,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir:

The undersigned, pursuant to Section 6(5)  
of The Police Act, 1971, have the honour to present  
the Annual Report of the Alberta Police Commission  
for the period July 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971.

  
John E. Hart, Q.C.,  
Chairman.

  
James C. Cavanagh, Q.C.,  
Member

  
W. Lloyd McPhee,  
Member



ALBERTA POLICE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 1971

to

December 31, 1971

John E. Hart, Q.C.,  
Chairman

James C. Cavanagh, Q.C.,  
Member

W. Lloyd McPhee,  
Member



ALBERTA POLICE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1st to DECEMBER 31, 1971

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## FORWARD

Under authority of Order in Council 2403/69 dated December 23, 1969, the Executive Council of the Government of Alberta appointed Assistant Commissioner, Harry A. Maxted, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Rtd) to undertake a survey to enquire into and report upon the feasibility for establishing a Board of Police Commissioners within the Province of Alberta. The Maxted Report was tabled in the Legislature in March, 1970 and carried a strong recommendation for the revision of the Alberta Police Act and the establishment of an Alberta Police Commission to serve as advisor to the Attorney General, to municipal authorities, to the police and to the public in any matter designed to improve policing generally and to create a better understanding between the police and the public.

Section 5 of The Police Act, 1971 which came into force on July 1, 1971 authorized the establishment of an Alberta Police Commission to consist of three members. Order in Council 1236/71 dated July 14, 1971 authorized the appointment of the following to compose the Alberta Police Commission for a term of one year commencing July 1, 1971:

John Edward Hart, Q.C.	Edmonton, Alberta
James Creighton Cavanagh, Q.C.	Edmonton, Alberta
William Lloyd McPhee	Calgary, Alberta



John Edward Hart, Q.C. was designated to be Chairman of the Alberta Police Commission during that term. The Chairman and members of the Commission are to meet as required and are reimbursed on a per diem basis while engaged in their duties.

On July 19, 1971 Harry Maxted of Edmonton, Alberta, was engaged on a full-time basis as Executive Director for the Alberta Police Commission to serve as advisor to the Commission in all matters related to police and policing and to be responsible for the efficiency of the day to day operations and general administration of the Alberta Police Commission.

The offices of the Alberta Police Commission have been temporarily located in the Legislative Building, Edmonton however in January 1972 the Commission offices will be permanently located on the 5th floor of the Madison Building in Edmonton.

This first annual report covers a period of less than six months. In this period the Commission has maintained its position as that of an advisory body. The Commission is most grateful to the personnel of the Department of the Attorney General who have rendered valuable assistance to the Commission and its Executive Director. The Commission also appreciates the assistance and cooperation received from Municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, Police Committees, Municipal Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and many others during this brief





first six months of its existence. The Commission is also deeply grateful to the Chairmen and members of both the Ontario Police Commission and the Quebec Police Commission for their interest, guidance and splendid cooperation.

#### FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The responsibilities of the Alberta Police Commission are set out clearly in Section 7 of The Police Act, 1971 and requires that "The Commission shall promote the prevention of crime and the efficiency of police service in the Province". To accomplish this the Commission may establish a central information and research service to aid the police forces in Alberta; consult with and advise municipal police boards and committees, chiefs of police and other police authorities on all matters related to police or policing; assist in coordinating the work and efforts of the police forces in Alberta; establish minimum selection and training standards for municipal policemen, special constables and by-law enforcement officers.

In addition to developing a training program to assist municipal constables located in the smaller centers where training facilities are not available the Commission will also encourage the development of police education at the post-secondary school level. The Commission may also establish a uniform basic disciplinary code for all municipal police in the Province and may hear and dispose of appeals by members of police forces





involved with disciplinary matters.

The Commission shall exercise the powers of enquiry conferred upon it by the Act whenever so requested by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the Attorney General, a municipal council or a private citizen and in the case of the latter, the Commission is required to advise the citizen of the results of the investigation.

#### THE POLICE SERVICE OF ALBERTA

Section 9 of The Police Act, 1971, requires that every city, town, new town and village having a population in excess of 1500 persons is responsible for the policing of and maintenance of law and order. Under the terms of the 1966 agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are responsible for policing the rural areas and those towns and villages having a population of 1500 or less. In addition, by agreement with municipalities having a population of over 1500 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police may enter into contract to supply essential municipal police services.

To fulfill this obligation those cities, towns and villages having a population in excess of 1500 employ 1639 municipal policemen and 43 cities and towns in this category employ 219 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to provide a municipal police service for a total of 1858. This



includes Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Drumheller and Wetaskiwin. At the present time there are only 12 towns having a population in excess of 1500 that maintain their own municipal police department for a total combined strength of only 47 full-time policemen. There are only 6 towns or villages with populations of less than 1500 that maintain a full-time town or village constable. In addition 8 of the thirty counties and one municipal district employ 16 full-time constables.

### Distribution

#### Cities

Calgary	667
Camrose	11
Edmonton	816
Lethbridge	51
Medicine Hat	<u>41</u>
	1586

#### Towns over 1500

Barrhead	4
Cardston	4
Coaldale	2
Fort Saskatchewan	6
Hinton	5
Lacombe	5
Leduc	4
Raymond	2
Redcliff	3
Taber	6
Vulcan	2
Westlock	<u>4</u>
	47

#### Towns Less than 1500

Alix	1
Bentley	1
Blackfalds	1
Calmar	1
Rimbey	1
Strathmore	<u>1</u>
	6

#### Counties

Camrose	1
Flagstaff	1
Lacombe	1
Lac Ste. Anne	1
Mountain View	1
Parkland	7
Warner	1
Wetaskiwin	2
M.D. of Rocky View	<u>1</u>
	16





Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Total Strength	1388
Provincial Contract	818
Differential	103
Municipal Detail	219
Officers, public servants and non contract services	<u>248</u> 1388

On the whole the police service of Alberta is staffed by conscientious, dedicated personnel who merit the confidence and support of the public. Our cities and larger towns enjoy a high level in police efficiency. The smaller centers however are experiencing problems in meeting the rapidly rising police costs and there are some areas in this category that require improvement.

In meeting its obligation to provide police service to every town and village of less than 1500 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police cannot establish police detachments in every small center. This is not practical or economically possible. Improved roads, communications and general conditions have made it possible for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to eliminate some of the smaller detachments and to concentrate their manpower and equipment at hub centers. The rural areas of the province are now being covered by a sophisticated preventive patrol system with patrol cars operating from the hub center on a 24 hour basis.





The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have established in Alberta a Central Dispatching Service to operate in conjunction with the new patrol service. It is now possible for the general public to contract R.C.M.P. at any time during the 24 hour period by telephoning without charge, Zenith 50.000. The nearest patrol will then be directed to the area requiring attention.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSION

Unless circumstances require otherwise, it is the intention of the Commission to meet once each month to deal with such matters as may require its attention. During the past five months the Commission has studied reports prepared by the Executive Director relating to policing problems and in seven specific incidents the Commission have submitted recommendations for the consideration of the Attorney General.

One of the first of these involved the policing of towns and villages of less than 1500. Under the 1966 federal provincial agreement the R.C.M.P. are required to provide adequate police service to these smaller communities. As of July 1, 1971, when the new Police Act came into force, 63 of the 71 municipalities in the less than 1500 category received R.C.M.P. service. The remaining eight preferred to maintain their own resident town or village constable, however the new Police Act did not clearly provide the necessary authority.



The Commission gave a great deal of consideration to this problem. One member of the Commission met with a delegation from the towns and villages concerned and the Executive Director held meetings with the municipal officials involved. The Commission made recommendations designed to resolve the problem.

Other recommendations of the Commission have dealt with the appointment of special constables, the need for regulations to deal with such appointments and the use of firearms by special constables. The Commission also dealt with problems relating to the quality of policing in one small town. The Commission recommendation was accepted and the problem resolved to the satisfaction of the town. The Commission have also made a recommendation with respect to the security services operating on University property in Alberta and are presently considering a report dealing with the function of the county constable. A report is also being prepared which deals with policing on Indian Reservations.

The Commission have also been served with a Notice of Appeal from a former member of a municipal police department whose dismissal was ordered following a disciplinary hearing.





## FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In addition to supervising the day to day administration of the Alberta Police Commission the Executive Director is responsible for conducting investigations and enquiries and preparing reports for the consideration of the Commission. All correspondence dealing with the appointment of special constables and by-law enforcement officers is processed through the Commission office. The Executive Director has also been designated as Administrator of The Private Investigators and Security Guards Act and, while this is not a function of direct concern to the Commission, there are sufficient areas of common interest between the police departments and security services to make this arrangement desirable.

There are many minor matters that can be resolved by the Executive Director without reference to the Commission. In the past six months these have included six enquiries from members of the general public three of which involved minor matters of complaint against police activity. There were also five enquiries from municipalities concerning their police services, five from police departments seeking advice and two from police constables. The Commission have also received enquiries from the Nova Scotia Police Commission, the Attorney General's Department of New Brunswick and from the Law Faculty of the University of Saskatchewan.



The Commission office was able to assist the smaller municipal and county constables by supplying information with respect to the provisions of the new Bail Reform Act.

In recent months the Executive Director has held meetings with the municipal officials, boards and police committees in the 12 towns of over 1500 who maintain municipal police departments plus similar meetings in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. The purpose has been to explain the function and responsibility of the Alberta Police Commission and to clarify the provisions of the new Police Act. The Executive Director has reported that the discussions were congenial, of mutual benefit and there is no indication that The Police Act is creating problems at the municipal level. The Executive Director also held meetings with the secretaries of seven of the eight counties that maintain a full-time county constable and the one Municipal District that provides a similar service.

In addition the Executive Director has maintained a close contact with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and police officials in Edmonton and Calgary. 45 visits have been made to municipal police departments, county constables or Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachments. This has provided an opportunity to assess policing problems at the local level, particularly those related to selection and training of personnel.

The Executive Director had an opportunity to discuss common problems with Mr. Gerard Tobin of the Quebec Police





Commission in early September 1971 and in the same month spent three days with the Ontario Police Commission in Toronto. He is most grateful for the advice and guidance received with respect to administrative matters.

#### POLICE TRAINING

The Alberta Police Commission recognizes that the prime problem of the smaller municipalities is their inability to secure qualified men to perform the necessary police function. Their problem has been aggravated by rapidly rising police costs. The Edmonton-Calgary wage scale is now in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 bracket. The smaller towns who offer top salaries of \$5,000 to \$8,000 can in no way compete for the available manpower.

The larger cities offer more attraction to a young man motivated to a police career and the smaller town police department, devoid of any training facilities and limited opportunities for advancement is forced to employ untrained, unqualified and frequently poorly motivated men to supply the required police service. There appears to be no immediate practical solution. Many municipalities in recent years have obtained the services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. At the present time 219 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are providing municipal police services to 43 cities and towns in Alberta including Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Drumheller and Grande Prairie. Only 12 towns with populations in excess



of 1500 still maintain their own municipal police departments and many of these are being forced to seriously consider the possibilities of Royal Canadian Mounted Police municipal policing.

The Commission recognizes its responsibility to offer some assistance to the smaller municipalities by establishing a training program to serve their needs. While the Commission has made some preliminary research into the feasibility for establishing a Provincial Police Training School and has not yet exhausted this possibility, this proposal does not appear to be practical or economically sound. The total strength of the 12 towns still maintaining police forces is 47 men. There are 14 full-time county constables and only six full-time town or village constables for a total of 67 men - certainly not enough to justify the establishment of a police academy.

In recent years some of the smaller police departments have been able to send a man to the police schools operated by the Edmonton and Calgary Police Departments. The Commission is studying the feasibility of enlarging on this program with the cooperation of the Edmonton and Calgary Boards of Police Commissioners and the chiefs of police with possible financial assistance from senior governments. The Commission is also exploring the possibility for instituting a monthly training bulletin which could deal with police problems on a correspondence basis.





The Alberta Police Commission certainly hope to institute a program during the coming year that will provide relief to the smaller municipal police departments with respect to the training of their personnel.

#### POLICE EDUCATION

The Alberta Police Commission is dedicated by virtue of Section 7(11) of The Police Act to assist in the development of police education at the post secondary school level. Police education programs are available at the Lethbridge Community College, the Mount Royal Junior College in Calgary and at the Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton. The Executive Director of this Commission is a member of the Continuing Advisory Committee Police Science Program at Grant MacEwan Community College. These programs are designed to supplement rather than to replace the police training programs mentioned under the preceding heading. Police education programs are at two levels. One will be a pre-enlistment educational program to familiarize a young man with the basic requirements for a career in law enforcement. The second is designed to provide an advanced educational course tailored to meet the requirements of the serving policeman.

Dr. R. G. Fast, Director of Instructional Services for the Alberta Colleges Commission is extremely interested in programs being developed and a very desirable rapport exists between the two Commission offices.



ORGANIZED CRIME

The Alberta Police Commission would be remiss in its responsibilities if it were to conclude this report without expressing some concern with the possible expansion of organized crime within our community. While we are fortunate that the spreading tentacles of the crime octopus are not as obvious in Alberta as in certain areas of eastern Canada, we cannot afford the luxury of complacency. We must accept that as the wealth of Alberta is developed our province will become increasingly vulnerable to those who would exploit our resources for their criminal gain. We are indeed fortunate in having at our disposal the investigative arm of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to keep a watchful surveillance on the movements of those known to be involved in the higher echelon of the crime syndicates.

We are also fortunate that a very desirable cooperation exists between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Criminal Investigation Branches of our larger municipal police departments. This will continue to be our greatest weapon against the expansion of "white collared" crime within the province. While it is not the intention of this Commission to become involved in the day to day activities of these very important arms of our law enforcement service, this Commission does intend to encourage the free exchange of criminal intelligence as between the police services





in Alberta in order that they may continue to work as a team  
in their fight against a common enemy.





